Hallmarking Scheme of BIS

485. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the jewellers in the country sell gold not of the claimed purity;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in this regard recently;

(c) if so, outcome of the survey;

(d) the number of jewellers who have adopted Hallmarking Scheme of BIS so far all over the country, State-wise; and

(e) the fresh steps taken by Government for strict implementation of Hallmarking Scheme of BIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recently conducted a survey in some of the major cities of the country. Out of 75 samples of gold jewellery tested, only 9 samples were found to be of the claimed purity.

(d) State-wise number of Jewellers licenced by BIS for Hallmarking Scheme is given in the Statement *{See* below).

(e) The Hallmarking Scheme of BIS is voluntary in nature. Efforts are being made by BIS to popularise the scheme through measures undertaken for increasing awareness among the consumers and for motivating the jewellers.

Statement

Number of jewellers State-wise

State	No. of licences
Andhra Pradesh	4
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	2
Delhi	43
Gujarat	35
Karanataka	4
Kerala	24

State	No.of licences
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	65
Orissa	4
Pondicherry	2
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	30
Uttaranchal	1
West Bengal	17
TOTAL:	248

Current stock of wheat and rice

486. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current stock of wheat and rice compared with the buffer stock norms;

(b) the cost of storage of these stocks during the year;

(c) the carrying cost for the year 2001-2002; and

(d) the value of the damaged stocks during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The stock position of wheat and rice in Central Pool as on 30th September, 2001 as compared with buffer norms of the corresponding period as under:—

(fig. in lakh tonnes)

As on	Commodity	Stocks	Buffer Norms	Surplus Stock
30.9.01	Rice	214.52	65.00	149.52
	Wheat	368.26	116.00	252.26

The stock of rice and wheat as on 1.11.2001 was 265.03 lakh tonnes and 357.97 lakh tonnes respectively.